

REMARKS***Amendments to the Claims***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-10, 18-21, 25-26, and 28-29 are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, claims 1 and 18 are independent.

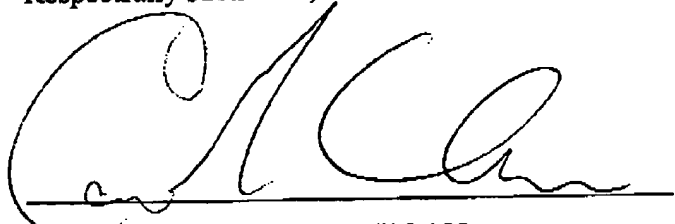
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being unpatentable primarily in view of the Japanese patent JP 06-108,309 (JP '309). In particular, the Examiner has summarily concluded that the polymeric material of JP '309 corresponds to the claimed polymer fiber matrix. However, as the Examiner correctly points out, the magnetic fibers disclosed by JP '309 are of a sheath/core structure wherein only the core comprises the polymeric material having magnetic particles. One of the main disadvantages of the sheath/core structure of JP '309 is that the magnetic particles cannot be uniformly distributed throughout the fiber. Rather, they can only be concentrated in the core. Unlike the sheath/core fibers of JP '309, the magnetic fibers of the claimed invention as amended herein and as illustrated in Fig. 3, consist solely of the polymer fiber matrix. As a result, the magnetic particles can be uniformly distributed throughout the magnetic fiber.

Applicant is in the process of creating a prototype of the invention which it believes can help better demonstrate the differences between the structure of its magnetic fiber and that disclosed in JP '309. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner prior to the issuance of an Office Action in Applicant's RCE application so that Applicant can forward the prototype to the Examiner and discuss these differences.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Request is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Chicoine', written over a horizontal line.

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